



Complete Summary

TITLE

Pathology: percentage of colon and rectum cancer resection pathology reports that include the pT category (primary tumor), the pN category (regional lymph nodes) and the histologic grade.

SOURCE(S)

College of American Pathologists (CAP), Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®. Pathology physician performance measurement set. Chicago (IL): American Medical Association (AMA); 2007 May. 12 p. [4 references]

Measure Domain

PRIMARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Process

The validity of measures depends on how they are built. By examining the key building blocks of a measure, you can assess its validity for your purpose. For more information, visit the [Measure Validity](#) page.

SECONDARY MEASURE DOMAIN

Does not apply to this measure

Brief Abstract

DESCRIPTION

This measure is used to assess the percentage of colon and rectum cancer resection pathology reports that include the pT category (primary tumor), the pN category (regional lymph nodes) and the histological grade.

RATIONALE

Therapeutic decisions for colorectal cancer management are stage driven and cannot be made without a complete set of pathology descriptors. Incomplete cancer resection pathology reports may result in misclassification of patients, rework and delays, and suboptimal management. The College of American Pathologists (CAP) has produced evidence-based checklists of essential pathologic parameters that are recommended to be included in cancer resection pathology reports. These checklists have been endorsed as a voluntary standard by National

Quality Forum (NQF) and are considered the reporting standard by the Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

The CAP recently conducted a structured audit of colorectal cancer pathology report adequacy at 86 institutions. Overall, 34% of eligible reports were missing at least one of the ten CAP-recommended colorectal cancer elements. Cancer Care Ontario (CCO) conducted a similar study in 2005 and found that 31% of colorectal cancer pathology reports did not include all of the information required by the CAP standards.

While the exact percentage of colorectal cancer resection pathology reports that are missing the pT category, the pN category and the histologic grade is unknown, these are essential elements in colorectal cancer treatment decisions and should be included in every pathology report when possible.*

*The following clinical recommendation statements are quoted verbatim from the referenced clinical guidelines and represent the evidence base for the measure:

Patient management and treatment guidelines promote an organized approach to providing quality care. The (American College of Surgeons Committee on Cancer) CoC requires that 90% of pathology reports that include a cancer diagnosis contain the scientifically validated data elements outlined in the surgical case summary checklist of the College of American Pathologists (CAP) publication Reporting on Cancer Specimens.

Surgical resection is the primary therapy for most colorectal carcinomas, and the most important prognostic indicators are related to the pathologic findings in the resection specimen. The anatomic extent of disease is by far the most important prognostic factor in colorectal cancer. Pathologic staging depends on pathologic documentation of the anatomic extent of disease, whether or not the primary tumor has been completely removed. If a biopsied tumor is not resected for any reason (e.g., when technically unfeasible) and if the highest T and N categories or the M1 category of the tumor can be confirmed microscopically, the criteria for pathologic classification and staging have been satisfied without total removal of the primary cancer.

PRIMARY CLINICAL COMPONENT

Colorectal cancer; pathology; colon and rectum cancer resection; pathology reports (pT category [primary tumor], the pN category [regional lymph nodes] and the histologic grade)

DENOMINATOR DESCRIPTION

All colon and rectum cancer resection pathology reports (see the related "Denominator Inclusions/Exclusions" field in the Complete Summary)

NUMERATOR DESCRIPTION

Reports that include the pT category, the pN category and the histologic grade

Evidence Supporting the Measure

EVIDENCE SUPPORTING THE CRITERION OF QUALITY

- A clinical practice guideline or other peer-reviewed synthesis of the clinical evidence

Evidence Supporting Need for the Measure

NEED FOR THE MEASURE

Unspecified

State of Use of the Measure

STATE OF USE

Current routine use

CURRENT USE

Internal quality improvement
National reporting

Application of Measure in its Current Use

CARE SETTING

Hospitals
Physician Group Practices/Clinics

PROFESSIONALS RESPONSIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE

Physicians

LOWEST LEVEL OF HEALTH CARE DELIVERY ADDRESSED

Individual Clinicians

TARGET POPULATION AGE

Unspecified

TARGET POPULATION GENDER

Either male or female

STRATIFICATION BY VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

Characteristics of the Primary Clinical Component

INCIDENCE/PREVALENCE

Unspecified

ASSOCIATION WITH VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Unspecified

BURDEN OF ILLNESS

Unspecified

UTILIZATION

Unspecified

COSTS

Unspecified

Institute of Medicine National Healthcare Quality Report Categories

IOM CARE NEED

Getting Better

IOM DOMAIN

Effectiveness

Data Collection for the Measure

CASE FINDING

Users of care only

DESCRIPTION OF CASE FINDING

All colon and rectum cancer resection pathology reports

DENOMINATOR SAMPLING FRAME

Patients associated with provider

DENOMINATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS

Inclusions

All colon and rectum cancer resection pathology reports

Exclusions

Documentation of medical reason(s) for not including the pT category, the pN category or the histologic grade (e.g., non-carcinomas; anal canal)

RELATIONSHIP OF DENOMINATOR TO NUMERATOR

All cases in the denominator are equally eligible to appear in the numerator

DENOMINATOR (INDEX) EVENT

Diagnostic Evaluation

DENOMINATOR TIME WINDOW

Time window is a single point in time

NUMERATOR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS**Inclusions**

Reports that include the pT category, the pN category and the histologic grade

Exclusions

None

MEASURE RESULTS UNDER CONTROL OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS, ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR POLICYMAKERS

The measure results are somewhat or substantially under the control of the health care professionals, organizations and/or policymakers to whom the measure applies.

NUMERATOR TIME WINDOW

Encounter or point in time

DATA SOURCE

Administrative data
Medical record

LEVEL OF DETERMINATION OF QUALITY

Individual Case

PRE-EXISTING INSTRUMENT USED

Unspecified

Computation of the Measure

SCORING

Rate

INTERPRETATION OF SCORE

Better quality is associated with a higher score

ALLOWANCE FOR PATIENT FACTORS

Unspecified

STANDARD OF COMPARISON

Internal time comparison

Evaluation of Measure Properties

EXTENT OF MEASURE TESTING

Unspecified

Identifying Information

ORIGINAL TITLE

Measure #2: colorectal cancer resection pathology reporting pT category (primary tumor) and pN category (regional lymph nodes) with histologic grade.

MEASURE COLLECTION

[The Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® Measurement Sets](#)

MEASURE SET NAME

[Pathology Physician Performance Measurement Set](#)

SUBMITTER

American Medical Association on behalf of the College of American Pathologists and Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®

DEVELOPER

College of American Pathologists
Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®

FUNDING SOURCE(S)

Unspecified

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FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES/OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflicts, if any, are disclosed in accordance with the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® conflict of interest policy.

ENDORSER

National Quality Forum

INCLUDED IN

Ambulatory Care Quality Alliance
Physician Quality Reporting Initiative

ADAPTATION

Measure was not adapted from another source.

RELEASE DATE

2007 May

MEASURE STATUS

This is the current release of the measure.

SOURCE(S)

College of American Pathologists (CAP), Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement®. Pathology physician performance measurement set. Chicago (IL): American Medical Association (AMA); 2007 May. 12 p. [4 references]

MEASURE AVAILABILITY

The individual measure, "Measure #2 Colorectal Cancer Resection Pathology Reporting pT Category (Primary Tumor) and pN Category (Regional Lymph Nodes) with Histological Grade," is published in the "Pathology Physician Performance Measurement Set." This document and technical specifications are available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the American Medical Association (AMA)-convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® Web site: www.physicianconsortium.org.

For further information, please contact AMA staff by e-mail at cqi@ama-assn.org.

NQMC STATUS

This NQMC summary was completed by ECRI Institute on November 3, 2008. The information was verified by the measure developer on December 4, 2008.

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